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ABSTRACT

A follow-up survey was conducted at the University of South Carolina at Lancaster (USCL) of students enrolled during fall semesters from 1971 through 1977. A 25-item questionnaire was mailed to a random sample of 400 of the 1,439 students enrolled during the period, requesting information on major, reason for enrolling, semester hours completed, degree earned, alternatives to USCL considered, skills enhanced due to USCL, satisfaction level, college or university enrollment following USCL attendance, assessment of career and life preparation received at the college, transfer major, associate degree completion, current employment status and location, reasons for taking jobs unrelated to major, job satisfaction, present salary, and future educational plans. Selected findings, based on a 51% response rate, included the following: (1) 52.5% of the respondents enrolled at USCL to prepare for employment; (2) 24.3% indicated if it had not been for USCL they would have been unlikely to attend college; (3) over 80% rated USCL as good or excellent in terms of teaching effectiveness, grading and testing, instructor interest in students, course content, and instructional materials; (4) 41.1% left USCL before obtaining an associate degree; and (5) 41% indicated that the college had not been too helpful or helpful at all in providing practical training for work. The bulk of the report presents study questions and raw and percentage responses. (LL)

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USC-LANCASTER: A FOLLOW-UP SURVEY OF STUDENTS AT A TWO-YEAR COMMUTER CAMPUS

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JC 830 271

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USC-Lancaster conducted a comprehensive survey of some of its former students. The focus of the survey was directed upon all students who had enrolled at USC-L during any of the fall semesters from 1971 through 1977. This time frame was largely chosen because records were most easily available for these years and the investigator wanted to give at least a two year period following the matriculation of the latest selected group.

A random sample of 400 was then selected from the 1439 students identified in the former student population. Each student was sent a follow-up survey containing 25 separate questions. A second survey was sent to the non-respondents approximately six weeks after the initial mailings. Of the random number selected, a total of 204 or 51% of the random sample returned the survey.

The results of the survey are contained in the following report:

TABLE ONE - Yearly review of the number and percentage of students sampled and number and percentage of surveys returned.

YEAR	TOTAL MATRICULATING	# SAMPLED	% SAMPLED	# OF RETURNED SURVEYS	% OF RETURNED SURVEYS
1971	161	44	.273	20	.455
1972	185	57	.308	30	.526
1973	219	48	.219	21	.438
1974	198	58	.293	27	.466
1975	230	72	.313	41	.569
1976	213	54	.254	26	.481
1977	233	67	.287	39	.582
TOTALS	1439	400	.278	204*	.510

*Two former students are deceased, thus results within survey questions will be based upon 202 respondents.

Question review of the number and percentage of students answering each survey item.

2. Sex

# Responding	% Responding	
106	.525	Male
96	.475	Female

3. Race

# Responding	% Responding	
166	.820	White
35	.173	Black
1	.007	American Indian
0	.000	Asian or Pacific
0	.000	Hispanic
0	.000	Non-resident

N=202

4. Date of Birth

# Responding	% Responding	Age Group
70	.346	19-23
93	.460	24-28
13	.064	29-33
14	.069	34-38
5	.025	39-43
2	.009	44-48
4	.019	49-53
1	.005	54-58
0	.000	59-63
0	.000	64-68

N=202

5. What was your major at USC-Lancaster?

# Responding	% Responding		Academic Major
49	.253	(100)	Undecided
22	.113	(205)	Business Administration/Accounting
19	.098	(950)	Secretarial Science
14	.072	(311)	Early Childhood Education
7	.036	(329)	Physical Education
7	.036	(310)	Elementary Education
7	.036	(050)	B.S. Nursing
6	.031	(160)	Psychology
6	.031	(587)	Criminal Justice
4	.021	(800)	Pharmacy
4	.021	(942)	Law Enforcement
4	.021	(960)	Technical Nursing
4	.021	(955)	Commercial Science
4	.021	(220)	Management
37	.186		Others

N=194

6. What was the basic reason for your enrolling at USC-Lancaster?

# Responding	% Responding	
29	.146	To enhance my general intellectual and social development
104	.525	To prepare myself for employment
31	.157	To gain more knowledge in a particular area that is of interest to me
23	.116	To prepare for admission to a professional school
11	.056	Other

N=198

7. Approximately how many semester hours did you complete at USC-Lancaster, including courses by television?

# Responding	% Responding	Hours	# Responding	% Responding	Hours
20	.123	0-12	44	.270	61-72
6	.037	13-24	15	.093	73-84
29	.179	25-36	21	.130	85-96
10	.062	37-48	3	.018	96 plus
44	.270	49-60	10	.067	unknown

N=162

8. If it had not been for USC-Lancaster...

# Responding	% Responding	
49	.243	It is unlikely that I would have attended a college or university
85	.421	I might have attended another college, but it would have been more expensive and inconvenient
68	.337	I would likely have enrolled in another college

N=202

9. What is the highest degree you earned at USC-Lancaster?

# Responding	% Responding	
36	.186	Associate in Science
22	.113	Associate in Arts
6	.031	Associate in Commercial Science
11	.056	Associate in Secretarial Science
4	.021	Associate in Technical Nursing
7	.036	Associate in Criminal Justice
82	.423	Didn't complete enough hours to obtain degree
24	.124	Completed enough hours but elected not to receive degree
2	.010	Bachelor of General Studies

N=194

10. Would you recommend USC-Lancaster to a friend?

# Responding	% Responding	
196	.970	Yes
6	.030	No

N=202

11. Please rate USC-Lancaster on the following items:
(Percentages in parentheses)

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	
54(.344)	90(.573)	13(.083)	0(.000)	Teaching effectiveness
39(.250)	102(.654)	15(.096)	0(.000)	Grading and testing
82(.532)	58(.377)	13(.084)	1(.007)	Instructor interest in students
45(.292)	92(.598)	14(.091)	3(.020)	Content of courses
39(.248)	96(.677)	20(.127)	2(.013)	Instructional materials (books, manuals, etc.)

12. Please consider your education at USC-Lancaster and rate how effective your education was in helping you to develop each of the following:

Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not Too Helpful	Not Helpful At All	
57(.358)	77(.484)	19(.119)	4(.038)	Ability to write well
33(.208)	87(.547)	34(.214)	5(.031)	Ability to speak effectively
38(.237)	77(.484)	27(.175)	12(.078)	Ability to utilize mathematical tools
40(.252)	68(.428)	33(.297)	18(.113)	Practical training for work
29(.191)	67(.441)	46(.303)	10(.066)	Ability to use leisure time effectively
40(.260)	77(.500)	28(.182)	9(.059)	Ability to understand local, social and political activities
58(.377)	83(.539)	11(.071)	2(.013)	Ability to think critically and solve problems

13. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following aspects of your college experience at USC-L.

Highly Satisfied	Generally Satisfied	Generally Dissatisfied	Very Dis-Satisfied	Not Applicable Not Used	
49(.306)	89(.557)	8(.050)	0(.000)	14(.088)	Overall instruction in courses in your major
30(.1875)	117(.731)	6(.038)	0(.000)	7(.044)	Overall instruction in non-major courses
79(.507)	59(.378)	10(.064)	4(.026)	4(.026)	Accessibility of instructors for conference or advisement
42(.263)	91(.583)	13(.083)	8(.051)	6(.038)	Quality of academic advisement
29(.180)	82(.513)	19(.119)	8(.05)	22(.138)	Quality of career counseling
15(.099)	51(.336)	13(.086)	4(.027)	69(.454)	Placement Office
23(.144)	88(.550)	17(.107)	7(.044)	25(.157)	Availability of student activities
43(.277)	48(.310)	6(.039)	7(.045)	51(.330)	Quality of guidance by the financial aid office

14. Please indicate how your education at USC-Lancaster helped you with each of the following purposes.

Very Well	Adequately	Moderately	Not At All	
51(.325)	83(.529)	17(.108)	6(.038)	To enhance my general intellectual and social development
44(.278)	67(.424)	31(.196)	16(.101)	To prepare myself for employment
73(.474)	47(.305)	30(.195)	4(.026)	To gain more knowledge in a particular area that is of interest to me
20(.136)	40(.272)	26(.177)	61(.415)	To prepare me for admission to a professional school(law or med school,etc.)
38(.251)	54(.358)	39(.258)	26(.132)	To increase my potential for job promotion or advancement
28(.182)	66(.429)	33(.214)	27(.175)	To make personal changes in jobs or careers
33(.221)	61(.410)	28(.188)	27(.181)	To increase my current job skills or potential
25(.166)	54(.358)	36(.238)	36(.238)	To increase my income

15. At what college or university did you enroll after leaving USC-Lancaster?

# Respondents	% Respondents	
63	.630	USC-Columbia
2	.020	USC-Aiken
1	.010	Coastal Carolina
10	.100	Winthrop
3	.030	Clemson
2	.020	Wofford
2	.020	Erskine
17	.170	Other

21. If your present job is not directly related to your major or your most recent degree, what is the main reason you took the job?

# Respondents	% Respondents	
27	.290	was already working with present employer before I completed the program
11	.118	Not sufficiently qualified for a job in my field of preparation
5	.054	Preferred to work in another field
11	.118	Found better paying job in another field
9	.097	Could not find a job in my field of preparation
4	.043	Could not find a job in my field without relocating
3	.032	Previously worked in field of preparation, but changed
23	.247	Other

N=93

22. Where are you employed? (State)

# Respondents	% Respondents	
130	.833	South Carolina
18	.115	North Carolina
8	.051	Other

N=156

Where are you employed? (South Carolina counties)

# Respondents	% Respondents	
74	.569	Lancaster
13	.100	Chester
3	.023	Lexington
7	.054	Richland
13	.100	York
20	.153	Other

N=130

23. How satisfied are you with your present job in terms of:

Highly Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	
53(.361)	62(.422)	23(.156)	9(.061)	Challenge
28(.196)	74(.517)	28(.196)	13(.091)	Salary
37(.253)	54(.370)	39(.267)	16(.109)	Long range plans

24. Please indicate your approximately monthly salary rate (gross--before taxes and deductions):

# Respondents	% Respondents	
13	.081	0-$300
3	.019	$300-$399
6	.038	$400-$499
9	.056	$500-$599
14	.088	$600-$699
12	.075	$700-$799
18	.113	$800-$899
15	.093	$900-$999
25	.156	$1000-$1099
9	.056	$1100-$1199
36	.225	$1200-Up

N=160

25. Which statement best summarizes your future educational plans?

# Respondents	% Respondents	
30	.169	I am currently working on a graduate or professional degree
33	.185	I plan to enter graduate or professional degree program
21	.118	I have no plans to ever attend college again
17	.096	I would like to return to college and complete an associate degree
36	.202	I would like to return to college and complete a bachelor's degree
20	.112	I would like to take an occasional course or two but would not work toward any degree
21	.118	I am interested in taking short-term courses and/or workshops that are either career-related or will contribute to personal enrichment or leisure-time activites

N = 178

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